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**I** Appoint *Thomas Newcomb*, and  
*Henry Hills*, to Print this Examina-  
tion, Narrative and Letter; Perused and  
Signed by me, According to the Order  
of the H O U S E O F C O M M O N S;  
And that no other Person presume to  
Print them.

**W<sup>ILLIAM</sup> W<sup>ILLIAMS</sup>, *Speaker*.**

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THE  
EXAMINATION  
OF

Captain *William Bedlow* Deceased,  
Relating to

The Popish Plot,

Taken in his last Sickness, by

Sir *FRANCIS NORTH*,

Chief Justice of the Court of *Common Pleas*.

Together with the Narrative of *Sir Francis North*, at the  
Council Board : And the Letter of *Sir Francis North*, to Mr. Secretary  
*JENKINS*, Relating to this EXAMINATION.

Perused and Signed to be Printed, Accord-  
ing to the Order of the House of Commons,

BY ME

*William Williams*, Speaker.



LONDON,

Printed by the Assigns of *John Bill*, *Thomas Newcomb*,  
and *Henry Hills*, Printers to the Kings most  
Excellent Majesty, 1680. Aug 16





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# EXAMINATION

Capt. **WILLIAM BEDLOW**

Taken upon Oath before the

Lord Chief Justice **N O R T H**

**B R I S T O L**

On Monday the 16th of August 1680.

He Examinate saith That  
the Duke of York hath  
bin so far engaged in the  
Plot as he hath seen by  
Letters in Cardinal Bar-  
on's Secretaries Study,  
that no part that hath bin proved against  
any man already, that hath suffered,  
but that to the full those Letters have  
made him guilty of it, all but what  
the Queen hath not attended



tended to the Kings Death. And at  
 Rome I asked Father ~~Aderton~~, and  
 Father ~~Lodge~~, two Jesuits, What  
 would the Duke do with his Brother  
 when he was King? And they answer-  
 ed me, They would find a means for  
 that: they would give him no trouble  
 about it. Then I told them, I believed  
 the Duke loved his Brother so well, he  
 would suffer no Violence to be done to  
 Him. They said, No: If the Duke  
 could be brought to that, as he had bin  
 Religiously to every thing else, they  
 might do their work: their other busi-  
 ness was ready, and they might do it  
 presently. But they knew they could  
 not bring him to that Point: but they  
 would take care for that themselves.  
 They had not begun with him, to leave  
 him in such scruples as that. But they  
 would set him into his Throne; and  
 there he should Reign blindfold three or  
 four days: for they had settled some  
 they should pitch the Action upon,  
 should clear their Parry. And then he  
 should lie upon them with the Sword of  
 Revenge. And this Examinant doth further add,  
 That the Queen is not, to this Exami-  
 nants

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nants knowledge, nor by any thing that  
he could ever find out, any way concern-  
ed in the Murder of the King: but  
barely by Her Letters consenting and  
promising to Contribute what Money  
she could to the Introducing the Catho-  
lick Religion. Nay, 'twas a great while,  
and it made Her weep, before she could  
be brought to that.

William Bedloe.

Jurat. 16. die Aug. 1680.

Coram me,

Fra. North.


~~I my first coming to Mr. Bedloe's house, where I was  
to lodge at Bristol, upon  
Thursday the 18. day of  
August in the Afternoon, being the  
first day of the Assizes, Sir John Knight  
came to me, and said, That Mr. Bedloe  
was dangerously ill of a Fever, and  
that he desired that I should give him a Visit, that he might  
impart something of great Conse-  
quence to me before his Death. I told  
him,~~



THE  
NARRATIVE

Sir FRANCIS NORTH  
Lord Chief Justice

OF THE  
COMMON PLEAS,  
At the COUNCIL BOARD.

T my first coming to Mr. Rumfey's house, where I was to Lodge at *Bristol*, upon *Munday* the 16<sup>th</sup> day of *August* in the Afternoon, being the First day of the Assises, Sir *John Knight* came to me, and said, That Mr. *Bedlow* lay dangerously ill of a Feaver, and had little hopes of Life; and desired that I would give him a Visit, that he might Impart something of great Consequence to me before his Death. I told him,

him I would give him a Visit that night  
 -after Supper, about Nine a Clock, if I  
 might be satisfied of two things: First,  
 That there was no Infection in his Di-  
 stemper: Secondly, That the same  
 would not be inconvenient, but he might  
 Discourse to me without prejudice to  
 his Condition. After a little while, two  
 Physicians came to me, and assured me,  
 that there was no danger of Infection,  
 and that the time I had appointed would  
 be most proper; for commonly he took  
 his repose in the Afternoon, and at Nine  
 a Clock he would in all probability be  
 refreshed, and fit to Discourse with me.  
 Thereupon I declared my Resolution of  
 going, and desired the Company of the  
 Two Sheriffs, and my brother Roger  
 North, and appointed my Marshal  
*William Fanes* to go with me. As we  
 were upon the way, Mr. *Crossman*, a  
 Minister in that City, told me Mr.  
*Bedlow* had desired him to come with  
 me to him: I said, It was very well, and  
 I should be glad of his Company.  
 Whereupon we went all together, and  
 being come into the Room where Mr.  
*Bedlow* lay, I saluted him, and said, I  
 was extreme sorry to find him so ill. I  
 came



came to Visit him upon his own desires. I did imagine he had something to impart to me as a Privy Counsellor; and therefore if he thought fit, the Company might withdraw. He told me, That needed not yet, for he had much to say, which was proper for the Company to hear. And having saluted the Sheriffs, and Mr. *Crosman*, he discoursed to this purpose. That he looked upon himself as a dying man, and found within himself that he could not last long, but must shortly appear before the Lord of Hosts, to give an account of all his Actions. And because many Persons had made it their business to baffle and deride the Plot, he did, for the satisfaction of the World, there declare upon the Faith of a dying Man, and as he hoped for Salvation, That whatever he had Testified concerning the Plot, was True. And that he had wronged no Man by his Testimony, but had Testified rather under than over what was Truth. That he had nothing lay upon his Conscience upon that Account. That he should appear cheerfully before the Lord of Hosts: which he did verily believe he must





must do in a short time. He said, He  
 had many Witnesses to produce, who  
 would make the Plot as clear as the Sun;  
 and he had other things to Discover  
 which were of great Importance to the  
 King, and the Countrey. Hereupon he  
 making some pause, I told him, The  
 Plot was so evidently made out, that no  
 reasonable man, no Protestant, I was  
 sure, could doubt of the Truth of it;  
 But he ought not to have Concealed any  
 thing that concerned the King so highly.  
 He ought to Discover his whole know-  
 ledge in matters of Treason, that Trai-  
 tors may be Apprehended and Secured;  
 who otherwise may have opportunity  
 to Execute their Treasonable Designs.  
 To this he replied, That much of that  
 which he had not Discovered was to  
 Corroborate his former Testimony:  
 That he had Concealed nothing that  
 was absolutely necessary to the Kings  
 Preservation. That he thought it not  
 fit to Accuse more Persons, till he had  
 ended with those whom he had already  
 Accused. He expressed great grief and  
 trouble at the Condition of his poor  
 King and Countrey (so he termed  
 them) whom he knew at that time to  
 be



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be in Eminent danger from the Jesuits;  
who had Resolved the Kings Death;  
and he was sure they would spare him  
no longer then he continued to be kind  
to them. He said, He was privy to their  
Consultations at Salamanca and Valla-  
dolid: where they used to observe the  
favourable Conjunction they had to In-  
troduce their Religion into England:  
which consisted in their having a Head,  
who must be set up whatever came of it:  
and, if they let slip that opportunity,  
they should never have such another:  
For without a Head they could do no-  
thing. He said further, He knew the  
Wickedness and Resolution of the Je-  
suits: they stuck at nothing to compass  
their own ends. They had attempted  
to Poison him, but he had escaped.

When he had finished this Discourse,  
(which lasted about a quarter of an hour)  
I asked him, If the Company should  
now withdraw? And he said, Yes: and  
Ordered his Nurses to go out, and only  
his W.ife to stay to tend him. And  
thereupon all went out, saving Mrs.  
Bedlow, my self, and my servant Will-  
am Jones. Then I told him, I thought  
it convenient that what he should then  
say



I thought it not fit, considering his  
 Condition, to perplex him with Que-  
 stions, but took his Information as he  
 offered it, and held no Discourse with  
 him when the Company was withdrawn,  
 but concerning the true setting down  
 his Depositions: and when he seemed  
 to be weary, to mind him of taking  
 Cordials, which his Wife reached to  
 him as he desired them.

The next day Mr *Bedlows* Bro-  
 ther came to me, and told me that his  
 Brother desired a Copy of the Deposi-  
 tion he made before me. But I told him,  
 I had well considered it, and could not

D

give



give him a Copy without the Kings leave. But I would move the King in it: and if He gave leave, I would take care to send one to him. And Mr Bedlows Brother then told me, That it was his Brothers desire that I should represent to His Majesty his Condition; and that his Sickness was very Chargeable: and move His Majesty on his behalf for some Supply of money for his Subsistence; which I promised to do.

*This is all that I can recollect of what passed upon this Occasion, and is in Substance true: but the very Words, or the Order, I cannot positively remember.*

ER A. NORTH.

The next day Mr Bedlows Brother came to me, and told me that his other desired a Copy of the Deposition on he made before me. But I told him I had well considered it, and could not give it.



To the Right Honourable

Sir **LYONELL FENKINS,**

One of His Majesties Principal

SECRETARIES OF STATE.

Sir,



*Always intended to Write from hence, to pay my thanks for the whole Circuit, which was much more pleasant, by your favour of holding Correspondence with me. But now I have business of some Importance :*

*For as soon as I came to this City, I received a Message from Mr. Bedlow, by Sir John Knight, That he being very ill, and in the judgment of Physicians in great danger of Death, had some business of great moment to impart to me. I knowing the Man, and the season, would not refuse the pains to give him a Visit : and being satisfied by Physicians that there was no Contagious quality in his Distemper, (though I did not much fear it) I went well accompanied ; and in the presence of the Company he Declared, That whatever he had said relating to the Plot, was True. And he being a dying Man, had nothing lay upon his Conscience upon that score. The greatest trouble he had, was the danger the KING (whom he loved above all things) was in from the Papists at this time : who would attempt His Life as soon as ever he should cease to be kind to them : and many other Expressions of this kind. After this I asked if he had any thing to impart to me in private. He told me, He had. And having made the Company withdraw, all but my Clerk, I*  
took



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took the inclosed Examination upon Oath; you may imagine I was not curious to perplex him with Questions. I took it just as he delivered it. Of what signification it will be, I leave to wiser Men. I think my duty is to send it to you, that you may Inform His Majesty of the Truth. I shall wait upon you at Windsor upon Sunday next, to receive your further Commands.

Your most humble and  
faithful Servant;

FRA. NORTH

Ten at Night. The Copy inclosed  
is hastily and ill Taken. I shall  
bring the Original with me.



And having made the Company witnesses, all but my Clerk, I  
had any thing to impart to me in private. He told me, He had  
other Expressions of this kind. After this I asked if he  
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